



## **FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

**[Notice 2012-02]**

### **Price Index Adjustments for Expenditure Limitations and Lobbyist Bundling**

#### **Disclosure Threshold**

**AGENCY:** Federal Election Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of adjustments to expenditure limitations and lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold.

**SUMMARY:** As mandated by provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (“FECA” or “the Act”), the Federal Election Commission (“FEC” or “the Commission”) is adjusting certain expenditure limitations and the lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold set forth in the Act, to index the amounts for inflation. Additional details appear in the supplemental information that follows.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2012.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Ms. Elizabeth S. Kurland, Information Division, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463; (202) 694-1100 or (800) 424-9530.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY**

**INFORMATION:** Under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, 2 U.S.C. 431 et seq., coordinated party expenditure limits (2 U.S.C. 441a(d)(2) and (3)(A), (B)) and the disclosure threshold for contributions bundled by lobbyists (2 U.S.C. 434(i)(3)(A)) are adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the consumer price index. See 2 U.S.C. 434(i)(3)(B) and 441a(c)(1), 11 CFR 104.22(g), 109.32 and 110.17(a), (f). The Commission is publishing this notice to announce the adjusted limits and disclosure threshold.

### **Coordinated Party Expenditure Limits for 2012**

Under 2 U.S.C. 441a(c), the Commission must adjust the expenditure limitations established by 2 U.S.C. 441a(d) (the limits on expenditures by national party committees, state party committees, or their subordinate committees in connection with the general election campaign of candidates for Federal office) annually to account for inflation. This expenditure limitation is increased by the percent difference between the price index, as certified to the Commission by the Secretary of Labor, for the 12 months preceding the beginning of the calendar year and the price index for the base period (calendar year 1974).

#### **1. Expenditure Limitation for House of Representatives in States with More Than One Congressional District.**

Both the national and state party committees have an expenditure limitation for each general election held to fill a seat in the House of Representatives in states with more than one congressional district. This limitation also applies to those states and

territories that elect individuals to the office of Delegate or Resident Commissioner.<sup>1</sup> The formula used to calculate the expenditure limitation in such states multiplies the base figure of \$10,000 by the difference in the price index (4.56207), rounding to the nearest \$100. See 2 U.S.C. 441a(c)(1)(B) and 441a(d)(3)(B), and 11 CFR 109.32(b) and 110.17. Based upon this formula, the expenditure limitation for 2012 general elections for House candidates in these states is \$45,600.

## 2. Expenditure Limitation for Senate and for House of Representatives in States with Only One Congressional District.

Both the national and state party committees have an expenditure limitation for a general election held to fill a seat in the Senate or in the House of Representatives in states with only one congressional district. The formula used to calculate this expenditure limitation considers not only the price index but also the voting age population (“VAP”) of the state. The VAP of each state is published annually in the Federal Register by the Department of Commerce. 11 CFR 110.18. The general election expenditure limitation is the greater of: The base figure (\$20,000) multiplied by the difference in the price index, 4.56207 (which totals \$91,200); or \$0.02 multiplied by the VAP of the state, multiplied by 4.56207. Amounts are rounded to the nearest \$100. See 2 U.S.C. 441a(c)(1)(B) and 441a(d)(3)(A), and 11 CFR 109.32(b) and 110.17. The chart below provides the state-by-state breakdown of the 2012 general election expenditure

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<sup>1</sup> Currently, these states are the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. See [http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW\\_by\\_State.shtml](http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml) and <http://about.dc.gov/statehood.asp>.

limitation for Senate elections. The expenditure limitation for 2012 House elections in states with only one congressional district<sup>2</sup> is \$91,200.

### Senate General Election Expenditure Limitations – 2012 Elections

State	Voting Age Population (VAP)	VAP x .02 x the price index (4.56207)	Senate Expenditure Limit (the greater of the amount in column 3 or \$91,200)
Alabama	3,675,597	\$335,400	\$335,400
Alaska	534,277	\$48,700	\$91,200
Arizona	4,857,391	\$443,200	\$443,200
Arkansas	2,227,505	\$203,200	\$203,200
California	28,419,993	\$2,593,100	\$2,593,100
Colorado	3,886,708	\$354,600	\$354,600
Connecticut	2,777,395	\$253,400	\$253,400
Delaware	702,467	\$64,100	\$91,200
Florida	15,063,111	\$1,374,400	\$1,374,400
Georgia	7,325,352	\$668,400	\$668,400
Hawaii	1,070,206	\$97,600	\$97,600
Idaho	1,156,869	\$105,600	\$105,600
Illinois	9,771,132	\$891,500	\$891,500
Indiana	4,919,319	\$448,800	\$448,800
Iowa	2,337,939	\$213,300	\$213,300
Kansas	2,147,316	\$195,900	\$195,900
Kentucky	3,348,401	\$305,500	\$305,500
Louisiana	3,456,640	\$315,400	\$315,400
Maine	1,058,970	\$96,600	\$96,600
Maryland	4,481,654	\$408,900	\$408,900
Massachusetts	5,182,521	\$472,900	\$472,900
Michigan	7,580,375	\$691,600	\$691,600
Minnesota	4,067,335	\$371,100	\$371,100
Mississippi	2,228,273	\$203,300	\$203,300
Missouri	4,598,567	\$419,600	\$419,600
Montana	775,845	\$70,800	\$91,200
Nebraska	1,382,576	\$126,100	\$126,100
Nevada	2,059,547	\$187,900	\$187,900
New Hampshire	1,038,210	\$94,700	\$94,700
New Jersey	6,778,345	\$618,500	\$618,500
New Mexico	1,562,805	\$142,600	\$142,600
New York	15,179,189	\$1,385,000	\$1,385,000
North Carolina	7,368,808	\$672,300	\$672,300
North Dakota	532,776	\$48,600	\$91,200
Ohio	8,851,859	\$807,700	\$807,700
Oklahoma	2,855,349	\$260,500	\$260,500
Oregon	3,008,092	\$274,500	\$274,500

<sup>2</sup> Currently, these states are: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming. See [http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW\\_by\\_State.shtml](http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml).

Pennsylvania	9,981,727	\$910,700	\$910,700
Rhode Island	831,766	\$75,900	\$91,200
South Carolina	3,598,675	\$328,300	\$328,300
South Dakota	620,926	\$56,700	\$91,200
Tennessee	4,911,217	\$448,100	\$448,100
Texas	18,713,943	\$1,707,500	\$1,707,500
Utah	1,936,913	\$176,700	\$176,700
Vermont	500,413	\$45,700	\$91,200
Virginia	6,243,058	\$569,600	\$569,600
Washington	5,248,281	\$478,900	\$478,900
West Virginia	1,470,570	\$134,200	\$134,200
Wisconsin	4,385,559	\$400,100	\$400,100
Wyoming	433,221	\$39,500	\$91,200

### 3. Expenditure Limitation for President

The national party committees have an expenditure limitation for their general election nominee for President. The formula used to calculate the Presidential expenditure limitation considers not only the price index but also the total VAP of the United States. The Department of Commerce also publishes the total VAP of the United States annually in the Federal Register. 11 CFR 110.18. The formula used to calculate this expenditure limitation is \$0.02 multiplied by the total VAP of the United States (237,657,645), multiplied by the price index, 4.56207. Amounts are rounded to the nearest \$100. See 2 U.S.C. 441a(d)(2) and 11 CFR 109.32(a). Based upon this formula, the expenditure limitation for 2012 Presidential nominees is \$21,684,200.

### **Limitations on Contributions by Individuals, Non-Multicandidate Committees and Certain Political Party Committees Giving to U.S. Senate Candidates for the 2011-2012 Election Cycle**

For the convenience of the readers, the Commission is also republishing the contribution limitations for individuals, non-multicandidate committees and for certain political party committees giving to U.S. Senate candidates for the 2011-2012 election cycle:

Statutory Provision	Statutory Amount	2011-2012 Limitation
2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(1)(A)	\$2,000	\$2,500
2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(1)(B)	\$25,000	\$30,800
2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(3)(A)	\$37,500	\$46,200
2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(3)(B)	\$57,500 (of which no more than \$37,500 may be attributable to contributions to political committees that are not political committees of national political parties)	\$70,800 (of which no more than \$46,200 may be attributable to contributions to political committees that are not political committees of national political parties) The overall biennial limit for 2011-12 is \$117,000.
2 U.S.C. 441a(h)	\$35,000	\$43,100

### **Lobbyist Bundling Disclosure Threshold for 2012**

The Act requires certain political committees to disclose contributions bundled by lobbyists/registrants and lobbyist/registrant political action committees once the contributions exceed a specified threshold amount. The Commission must adjust this threshold amount annually to account for inflation. The disclosure threshold is increased by multiplying the \$15,000 statutory disclosure threshold by 1.11578, the difference between the price index, as certified to the Commission by the Secretary of Labor, for the 12 months preceding the beginning of the calendar year and the price index for the base period (calendar year 2006). The resulting amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100. See 2 U.S.C. 434(i)(3)(A) and (B), 441a(c)(1)(B) and 11 CFR 104.22(g). Based upon this formula ( $\$15,000 \times 1.11578$ ), the lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold for calendar year 2012 is \$16,700.

On behalf of the Commission,

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Caroline C. Hunter  
Chair  
Federal Election Commission

DATED: February 14, 2012\_\_\_\_\_

[FR Doc. 2012-3841 Filed 02/17/2012 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 02/21/2012]